The South 40

Cattle numbers up 3%

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Virginia Cattle numbers are up 3% from a year ago, same as the national increase. Nationally beef cow numbers are up 5%, but in Virginia beef cows decreased 5%. In Virginia replacement beef cow replacements are up 36%, while nationally they are up only 4%.

The dairy industry has been plagued with milk surplus for 18 or more months. Yet, in Virginia dairy cow numbers are up 2%, but milk cow replacements dropped 8%. Nationally dairy cow numbers are up 1% and milk cow replacements are up 5%.

* * *

Virginia soybean producers approved the extension of the ½ cent per bushel check-off program for another 5 years. The ballot count showed 88% favored continuation. This program has been in effect 10 years. Twenty-three other states have a similar soybean promotion program.

* *

Did you know that a tiny amount of dextrose is added to iodized table salt? The dextrose is used as a stabilizer for the potassium iodide, which would dissipate on store shelves without a stabilizer. The amount added is 0.37% (that's less than 4/100 of one per cent, absolutely insignificant nutritionally!). Sodium carbonate in the amount of 0.0062 per cent is added to neutralize acidity that might cause decomposition of the potassium iodide. Potassium iodide is added in the amount of .01 per cent to prevent goiter. A free-flowing agent, usually sodium aluminosilicate (up to 2 per cent) is also added to table salt, either plain or iodized.

Now--what about your livestock. Do they have an adequate amount of trace mineralized salt + calcium + phosphate + manganese. These animals depend on you to provide these essentials.

* * *

Those with the capability of storing grain in a metal bin have at their disposal a most effective grain insecticide, phostoxin. It is available as a tablet or pellet. Phostoxin is a restricted use pesticide. This means the applicator must be certified and must be trained by someone designated to train phostoxin applicators.

* * *

There is a new test to detect antibiotics in producer milk samples. This new test is a microbiological test that utilizes the bacterium **Bacillus stearothermophilus** as the test organism. The sensitivity of the new test will allow detection of as little as 0.005 international units of penicillin (or an equal amount of other inhibitors) in milk. Previous regulatory tests, which utilized other organisms less sensitive to inhibitors, could only detect antibiotic levels equivalent to 0.05 to 0.01 IU of penicillin.

* * *

With the prospects of $4.00 to $5.00 wheat, don't get caught with stinking wheat or garlic wheat. When wheat prices go up, expect a higher penalty for garlic. The discount could be as much as $2.00 a bushel.

* * *

Check each field carefully and spray after grain has tillered, but before jointing stage. Use 2,4-D ester ar rate of 1.5 pints of 4 lb./gal. formulation per acre. Apply when air temperature is 65 degrees or higher. The condition outlined will possibly occur as early as March 15. Watch your fields carefully.

PRECIPITATION

This Week	1.59
This Month	3.88
This Year	5.18

Good news for homemakers

Families should set up child-proof areas

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent

Each family needs to set up child-proof areas in their home. This will be the first article in a series of three concerning how you can protect children from accidents in the home.

Recent records of the National Clearinghouse for Poison Control Centers indicate that soaps, detergents and cleaners account for 6% of all products reported accidently ingested by children under age 5. Other frequent ingested substances include some cosmetics such as nail polish, perfume and hair spray. Most exposures to household cleaning products, exclusive of caustic and acidic types, usually result in no or few ill effects. Symptoms of gastrointestinal disorders can occur and are generally of short duration. Nonetheless, children should be protected from exposure to soaps, detergents and other household chemical products. Appropriate storage areas and use practices should be set up to protect children from any potential exposure to these products.

A youngster five years of age and under is constantly exploring his exciting environment. This is the way he learns about the world in which he lives. An infant lying in a crib is examining, probing and taking stock of his surroundings. Unlike the adults who approach the unknown with caution and discernment, the young child blounders serenely into hair-raising situations. As he grows, his mobility increases so that more places are accessible to him at the ages four and five than were available when he was only two. When the youngster is first starting to crawl at abut nine months of age, he reaches, touches and inevitably puts everything he can get his hands on into his mouth. Quite naturally then, the products most involved with accidental poisoning among this age group are those stored on the floor or in floor level cabinets such as beneath kitchen and bathroom sinks.

As the toddler emerges, low tables, night tables, tub ledges and chairs are within his reach. Thus, all substances placed in these locations become the objects of the curious child's inspection.

It is at ages three to four that agility and mobility reach their peak. With climbing capabilities recognized and utilized, children really become climbers at this age and find high shelves and medicine cabinets which were so distant to the crawling and toddling child easily accessible at this point.

The whole point of poison prevention education is to emphasize the proper use and storage practices of medicines and household products. Studies show that the majority of incidents occur inside the home, mainly in the kitchen and bathroom. Nearly half the time that these accidents occur is when a product is in use. If carelessly placed while being used or improperly stored, containers of household cleaners can set off the inquisitiveness of a tot and tempt him to taste the contents.

One of the responsibilities of parents and adults to protect children during their formative years is to rearrange storage patterns of medicines and household products frequently as the child's reach increases. What was effective storage when he was unable to do more than crawl becomes an inticing challenge now that he can climb onto the kitchen counter or the bathroom sink and reach into the cabinet or chest above.

Next week I shall continue with some specific ways that you may wish to store and handle household cleaners and medicines. I urge each of you to follow safe practices when using products such as these in your home.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or you may write us at P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Have a good week!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Bonnie Lou's Turkey Stroganoff

¼ cup green pepper chopped
2 Tbls. onion chopped
2 Tbls. butter or margarine
1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup
½ cup sour cream
2 cups cooked noodles
1 cup turkey cooked and diced
½ tsp. paprika

Cook green pepper and onion in butter until tender. In a 1-quart casserole, blend soup and sour cream. Stir in remaining ingredients. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Yield - 4 to 5 servings. This recipe can be easily doubled for a company meal. Many thanks to Mrs. Bonnie Lou Wampler a friend from Harrisonburg, Virginia, who shared this delicious recipe with us. This is an excellent way to stretch the family food dollar and enjoy nutritious low-calorie turkey.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

* * *

Congratulations to all 4-H'ers who participated in Public Speaking this year. The county contest was held last week with more than 200 persons attending. Mr. William A. Hunter, President of Farmers National Bank, presented special trophies to the following winners: Brian Dickerson, Sharla Kevasnicka, Valerie Guill, Leroy Wooldridge, Brian Hudson, Monica Stratton, Brett Marston, Lisa Harrison, Sylvia Trent and Blair Smith.

* * *

The 4-H Strawberry project has been a big success. All of the plants that have been ordered have been reserved by 4-H families. We regret that we could not fill all orders that were received. The strawberry plants will be shipped in early March and 4-H families will be notified when the plants arrive.

* * *

Dale Glover and Jim Hix will participate in a 4-H-FFA Dairy Management Workshop at Virginia Tech on March 13 and 14. Mr. Bobby Waddell, Vo-Ag Instructor at ACHS will also attend the session.

* * *

Last week I had the opportunity to help judge 4-H Achievement Records in Blackburg. Over 270 records were turned in by senior 4-H'ers across the state. Many records were outstanding and the 4-H'ers had achieved a great deal during their 4-H years. We certainly encourage all senior age (14 and up) 4-H'ers to work on achievement records. Appomattox 4-H'ers submitting records this year were: Glen McClenny, Laura Walton, David Caldwell, Laurie Cowan, Blair Smith, Jane Guill, Terri Nash and Allen Smith.

* *

Senior 4-H'ers will be learning about the 4-H Business Management Workshop scheduled for May 8 - 10 at Holiday Lake. The workshop is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce in area counties and cities, and is designed to help older 4-H'ers to understand the principles of business management. Appomattox 4-H'ers who have participated in Business Management Workshops in the past years have been very positive with their comments.

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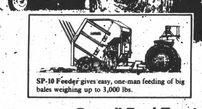

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